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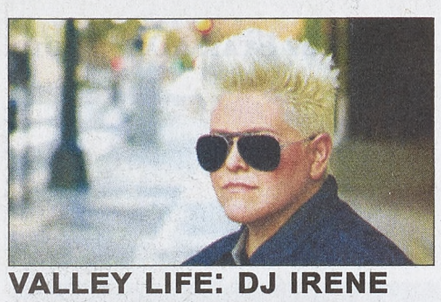


VALLEY LIFE: DJ IRENE

THIS VALLEY COLLEGE MUSIC PROFESSOR HAS HAD A LONG CAREER.

the VALLEY STAR

The Independent Student Newspaper of Los Angeles Valley College

GALLERY: ARBOR DAY

NEW TREES WERE PLANTED ON CAMPUS DURING THE PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

VOLUME 89, ISSUE 6 | VALLEY STAR MAY 7, 2019 | WWW.THEVALLEYSTARNEWS.COM

Measles outbreak plagues colleges

Quarantines were issued at southern California universities after they were struck with a measles outbreak.

TATE COAN,
ONLINE EDITOR AND
MEG TAYLOR,
NEWS EDITOR

More than 1,000 students and staff members from UCLA and Cal State LA have been quarantined in attempts to prevent the spread of measles.

The quarantine was ordered April 25 at both of the public universities to staff, faculty and students who had been exposed to an active form of the disease and could not provide evidence of a measles vaccination. The people quarantined were ordered to stay home, avoid contact with others and notify public health officials if symptoms arise.

UCLA's Dean of Students, Maria Blandizzi, sent out a text to possibly infected students stating, "You are receiving this text message because you have been exposed to measles, which is very contagious... UCLA does not have records proving that you have received your immunizations for measles, and per the LA Department of Public Health, you are mandated to isolate yourself until you can provide proof of immunization. If you have a roomate, you cannot isolate yourself in your apartment."

Those covered by the quarantine were singled out based on their possible exposure to either an infected UCLA student who had attended classes in two buildings on three days earlier this month, or a person with measles who visited a Cal State LA library on April 11, officials said.

Both of the universities are assisting in enforcing the order and "determining how best to support students who must be quarantined and who live on campus," according to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

"Vaccination is the only way to ensure you and your family members will not get measles."

- Karen Smith

The highly contagious disease is caused by a virus that can be spread through the air when coughing or sneezing and can stay in the air or on contaminated surfaces for up to two hours. Symptoms include: fever, cough, runny nose, watery eyes and the famous red spots rash. The disease can be spread up to four days before and four days after the appearance of symptoms.

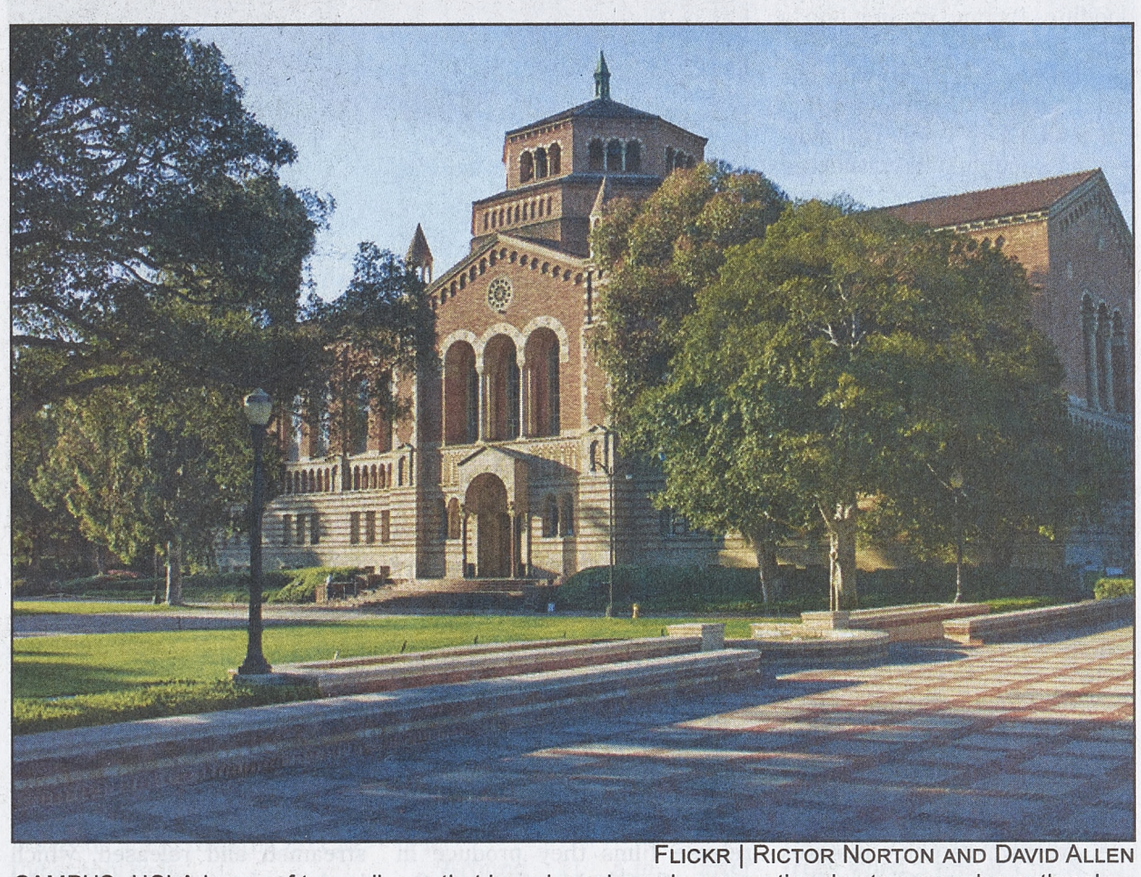
The lethal disease has been slowly making its way back into existence since the rise of the anti-vaccination movement. Measles deaths were up by 22 percent in 2017 and fear of vaccines were among the factors leading to less vaccinations according to a UNICEF study.

This fear is said to originate from a study published by Andrew Wakefield, a British surgeon, that suggested that the measles, mumps, rubella (M.M.R.) vaccine increases autism. The conclusions of that study have been proven false due to procedural errors, ethical violations and financial conflicts of interest, according to PublicHealth.org. Wakefield has since lost his medical license and the paper has been retracted.

Southern California is only seeing a small part of the largest outbreak of measles in the United States since the disease was declared eliminated nationwide in 2000, according to a statement by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on April 24.

Of the 764 cases in the U.S., 38 are in the state of California,

see Measles p.2



FLICKR | RICTOR NORTON AND DAVID ALLEN

CAMPUS- UCLA is one of two colleges that have been issued a quarantine due to a measles outbreak.

MEChA drops Chicano

Organization seeks inclusivity for all after voting to drop controversial labels.

MONSERRAT SOLIS
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

MEChA, an organization seeking to promote unity and empowerment within the Chicano community, recently voted to change indications of "Chicano" and "Aztlan" at a conference in Los Angeles.

MEChA, formerly known as Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx de Aztlan, held a conference (March 29 - March 31) where student leaders voted 29-3 to drop "Chicano" and "Aztlan" after concerns of anti-blackness and xenophobia.

MEChA's National Board released a message to the public concerning the decision to drop the name, highlighting inclusion and addressing misconceptions. By dropping the descriptive words, this invites all Latinos — not only Mexican Americans — to the conversation, according to MEChA. The organization wants to move away from "Chicano" being the sole representation of the organization.

"We are committed to freedom for all of us, not freedom for some of us," read the board's message.

Chicano Professor Jose Maldonado sees interpersonal conflicts at Mission College's MEChA club, but never racially motivated issues.

"It's an identity that someone takes on," said Maldonado about the meaning of being Chicano. "It's about political consciousness, it's what you make of it."

Most people refer "Chicano" to a person of Mexican origin or descent or a chosen identity for Mexican Americans, which can be considered exclusionary for an organization.

Black Chicanos, non-Mexican Americans and indigenous persons often experience xenophobia, anti-indigenous and anti-black hostility from Mexican Americans, according to the National Board's message.

The term "Aztlan" is the name given to the land, believed to have been populated by Aztecs in Chicano folklore, seized by America during the Mexican-American War of 1846, but that does not mean every Mexican or Latin person is Aztlan descent. That is the reasoning behind dropping the label. MEChA wants to make it clear they are not erasing Chicano from their history, but they see how their organization can be seen as oppressive and uninviting.

Vice President of Butte College's chapter, Jose Angel, tweeted that the name "Aztlan" explores anti-indigenous sentiments, but dropping it does not erase the damage done, explaining that it does not fix the "historical sexism embedded within the group's culture."

Angel wants the club to reflect openness to all, including the LGBTQ community and indigenous rights, as well as condemn racism, sexism, transphobia and homophobia. He states the organization has a long way to go and expresses his frustration with the slow-moving process.

Campus cooling system gets upgrade

Valley College is the first campus in the district to get new a thermal storage facility.

JERRY OUGH
STAFF WRITER

Nestled amid the decayed relics of the abandoned bungalows on the south side of the Valley College campus, a new way to cool down campus buildings is taking shape.

Nearly 100 steel reinforced concrete posts are being sunk 50 feet into the ground to support a concrete pad large enough to hold a 58 feet wide by 48 feet tall water storage tank. It is designed to cut down the cost of cooling campus buildings and the 877,532 gallon tank will be connected by underground polyethylene pipes to the campus heating and cooling plant. That plant will chill the water at night, pump the cold water into the storage tank and then use the water during the day to keep classrooms and offices cool.

"The biggest design challenge has ben a rigid foundation so that the structure won't settle after it's filled with water."

- Bruce Johnson

Before tank construction started in January 2019, the Los Angeles Community College District installed new higher capacity "chillers," machines that turn water cold, and new pumps in the campus heating and cooling plant.

The new system is designed to eliminate the need for running "chillers" during the day and, instead, use that equipment at night when the cost of electricity is much lower, according to Bryan Layton, superintendent and general foreman with Southland Industries.

The thermal storage tank system is the first of its kind in the district and was supposed to be up and running by the end of the year. However, the weather last winter changed the timeline.

"We've had delays because of the recent rains," said Layton.

Since the sandy soil that Valley sits on is too unstable, especially in an earthquake, to support the tank, those 50-foot-deep concrete posts will safely support the steel storage tank and the more than 7 million pounds of water.

"The biggest design challenge has been a rigid foundation so that the structure won't settle after it's filled with water," said Bruce Johnson, Build-LACCD Project Manager.

Digging the trenches for the underground pipes that connect the cooling plant, campus buildings and storage tank presented a complex challenge. Before digging the trenches, Build-LACCD had to "find a pathway of least resistance" according to Johnson.

The LACCD surveyed and mapped out all the Valley underground utilities. The evidence of that mapping is all the little pink flags on wires stuck in the ground and all the spay painted pink and blue symbols on the sidewalks and pavement all across campus.

Three years of planning preceded construction and the regulatory approval process was a reason for the delay. A big technical challenge was getting the project design approved by the Division of State Architects.

"They'd never seen this type of project and they were very cautious with their approvals," said Cameron Garnier, senior project manager with Southland Industries.

The next campus in the district to get this new kind of cooling system is LA City College. The $9 million Valley cooling system project is expected to be complete by March 2020 and will provide air conditioning to the entire campus just in time for the warmest days of the 2020 Valley spring semester.

VALLEY STAR | SOLOMON SMITH

DRILLING- Workers drill holes and move earth in preparation of the water tank's cement platform.

ON CAMPUS

May 7

A 30-minute set of American standards, musical theater tunes and songs from the 1970s will be performed in Music (M) Recital Hall 106 from 3:15 to 3:45 p.m.

May 8

A Q&A session with Soren Baker, author of "The History of Gangster Rap," will be held in Monarch Hall from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

May 10

The Student Equity, Professional Development and Gay Straight Alliance Club will present their first LGBTQ+ Conference from 12 to 3:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

May 11

The Philharmonic Choir will present "Love, Loss, Redemption, Rebirth," a program of a cappella and accompanied music exploring several themes of springtime in M Recital Hall 106 at 7:30 p.m.

These features and more can be found in full @ www.thevalleystar.com

Follow up-to-date campus news and events on Twitter @ValleyStarNews

NEWS

Spielberg takes a bite out of AppleTV+

After railing against Netflix for endangering the film industry, Steven Spielberg lines up with Apple TV+, another online streaming service.

SOLOMON SMTH
MANAGING EDITOR

Steven Spielberg, famed director and producer who called for a block of Netflix films at the Academy Awards, has partnered with Apple TV+.

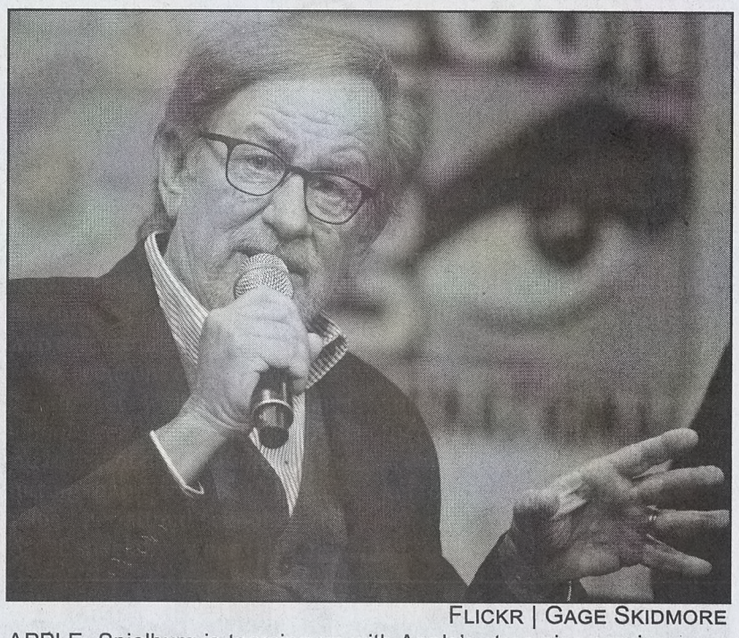
As one of the founders of modern cinema, he is on the board of directors for the Academy Awards and the owner of several massive production companies. Spielberg railed against Netflix' inclusion in the Oscars on Twitter, claiming that the platforms movie release practices are detrimental to the film industry.

Last month he helped launch the new Apple TV+, a streaming service Apple hopes can compete with the established giants like Netflix and Amazon. It announced its intention to have shows backed and produced by Apple come to the small screen in DATE. Giants like Spielberg and Oprah Winfrey have signed on, with Spielberg producing "Amazing Stories," a series, for Apple. Criticisms for his association with Apple TV+ were flooding Twitter, calling him a hypocrite.

"Steven Spielberg, who has openly argued that movies that are just on a TV aren't real movies and shouldn't be considered the same kind of art," tweeted Imran Khan senior editor of GameInformer, "is being paid to tell you why Apple TV+ is good."

Spielberg asserts that Netflix should be excluded from the awards because they release films in theatres in limited runs concurrent with the streaming service, which can harm the theatres ability to compete. His announced productions with Apple thus far are designed for television and not movies. Netflix still disputed Spielberg's claims on Twitter, albeit indirectly.

"We love cinema. Here are some things we also love: -Access for people who can't always afford, or live in towns without, theaters -Letting everyone, everywhere enjoy releases at the same time - Giving filmmakers more ways to share art," wrote NetFlix.



FLICKR | GAGE SKIDMORE
APPLE- Spielburg is teaming up with Apple's streaming service.

Other directors have also criticized the media giant for its practices. Christopher Nolan praised the efforts of other streaming services that release films they produce in a way that is beneficial to the industry. Nolan, who released "Dunkirk" in 2017, commented about Netflix an interview with IndieWire.

"They [Netflix] have this mindless policy of everything having to be simultaneously streamed and released, which is obviously an untenable model for theatrical presentation," said Nolan. "So they're not even getting in the game, and I think they're missing a huge opportunity."

As America deals with a shift in how it consumes media, the entertainment industry has consistently struggled to keep up. Music was one of the first to buck the trend of online media consumption and met with disastrous results in the 90s as consumers pirated music, while Napster established itself as the go to place for online music. Streaming music is now a standard part of the music industry, but television and movies continue to wrestle with a changing landscape.

For many, however, alternative methods of getting their work seen were not readily available until the rise of streaming media. "Broad City" and "Awkward," two popular shows, were picked up because they were bringing in viewers and revenue from YouTube. Ava DuVernay encouraged the Board of Governors to consider the effect on viewers and creatives.

"This is a Board of Governors meeting. And regular branch members can't be there," DuVernay tweeted to the Academy. "But I hope if this is true, that you'll have filmmakers in the room or read statements from directors like me who feel differently."

Netflix was not the first nail in the coffin for theatres. DVDs and home video started the downward spiral for theatres back in the 80s and 90s. As home media has gotten better and cheaper, it became harder to entice viewers out of the living room.

A decline of movie ticket sales has been the plague of the film industry, and television is faring no better. Streaming services have been on a steady rise, however. In the last few years Netflix has gone from a DVD mail service to a full-blown production company that can get names like Will Smith, Liam Nielson, Matt Damon for their films.

Undocumented, but not limited

Challenged by a lack of a legal status, this student accepted no excuses and is determined to be a success.

MICKIE SHAW
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

[The subject of this profile asked that only her first name be used.]

The summer heat was stifling, even at night, and their fear only added to the discomfort as nearly 50 people, mostly men, quietly moved through a cotton field. They had crossed the border from Mexico to Arizona and were suddenly in America — illegally.

After crossing, the dusty, tired and anxious group piled into a waiting fruit truck and traveled several hours to Indio, California. Once in Indio, the migrants stayed overnight in a safe house. The next day they traveled in minivans to Los Angeles. Seeking adventure and leaving poverty behind, Maria, 24, and her sister, 19, both made the dangerous trek to the United States from their small town of Morillia, Mexico.

Maria smiled at the memory, as she told the story of that fateful crossing.

Now a full-time student at Valley College, the petite, dark-haired 45-year-old is a child development major who wants to transfer to CSUN after earning her associate of arts degree. Maria earned a 4.0 grade point average last semester while also working as a housekeeper.

> **"I would like — especially young people — to know that there are no limitations. There are no excuses."**
>
> *- Maria*

"I would like to work with children with special needs in the Hispanic community. You know parents are not well educated, some don't speak English, some are ashamed to say my child has different needs," said Maria. "I would like to work with small children. I think that is when they need the most support. Especially in our community where education is not a priority."

Maria always loved school. As a young student in Mexico, she started working at 14 years old as a housekeeper to help her impoverished family —including nine siblings — survive. After graduating from high school, she was discouraged from continuing her studies and told to find a full-time job. In the United States, Maria started her academic career with English classes at Van Nuys High School. Eventually, she completed her high school diploma and was encouraged by councilors to take community college classes.

A recipient of the California Dream Act, which pays for her school fees, she worries about the threat of deportation and the cutting of programs that have helped her attend school.

"Especially when the new presidency began, I would hear people were caught [by ICE] driving children to school," said Maria with a deep concern in her voice. "That makes me feel a little afraid. Not just to be detained but … what is going to happen to my daughter?"

The lack of legal status and a social security number limits her academically. It is a challenge she deals with often.

"Sometimes I really need the [legalization documents], like right now at school. I would have better opportunities if I had papers," said Maria.

Now married, she has a 10-year-old daughter who is an American-born citizen. Her academic success has even inspired her husband, who is also undocumented, to start English classes.

"I would like — especially young people — to know that there are no limitations. There are no excuses. That it is a hard job to do, but you can make it."

'Measles'

from page 1

nearly tripling the amount of cases recorded at this time last year, according to the California Department of Public Health. Fourteen of the cases from this year's outbreak were with international travelers and 22 cases were spread from travelers to California citizens.

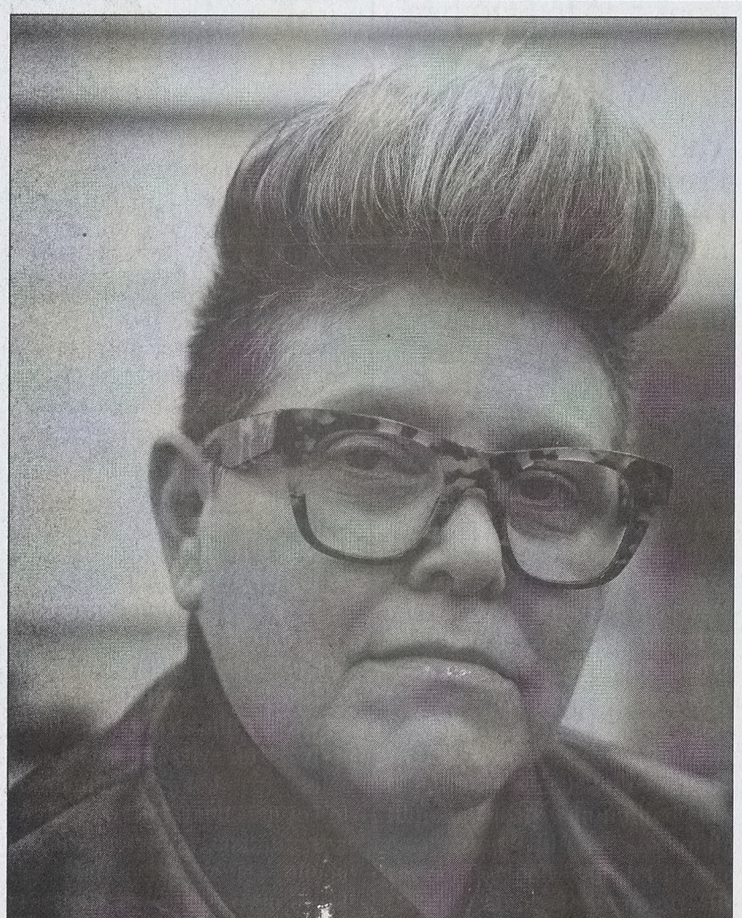
"Vaccination is the only way to ensure you and your family members will not get measles," said the director of the California Department of Public Health, Dr. Karen Smith. "Many countries are currently experiencing widespread measles activity. Make sure you and your family are fully vaccinated before traveling internationally."

There have been no cases of the measles at any of the LACCD colleges or facilities, according to an email May 3 sent out from the district. However, if there were and Valley College students needed a vaccine, they cannot receive one on campus; Valley has never carried the M.M.R. vaccine.

"If you did need it, then you would have to look at a different location or different clinics or if students have health insurance they would have to go through their primary healthcare provider," according to the Student Health Center.

The M.M.R. shot is provided by many CVS pharmacies for close to $100 if lacking insurance. The vaccination is covered on insurance plans and can be obtained through a primary care physicians.

People who have had two doses of the M.M.R. shot or who were born before 1957 are considered immune, according to the CDC. They advise that women who are pregnant, anyone who is moderately ill, and people with tuberculosis or with any condition that causes them to bleed or bruise easily should avoid the vaccine.



VALLEY STAR | SOLOMON SMITH
DJ- Irene Gutierrez led a long music career before coming to Valley.

DJ Irene spins new class on campus

Legendary DJ brings the beat to a new generation of students at Valley College.

AIMEE MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

In Music 270, DJ equipment is set on a table, two speakers on either side. Irene Gutierrez approaches the controller system and fiddles with the knobs, headphones around her neck. Beats reverberate from the speakers and the students gather to observe her as she warms up. Heads bob to the beats seamlessly mixed together. Glasses move on and off as she pauses and analyzes her next moves. The pulse quickens but stops just as it is about to hit the climax. DJ Irene has just emerged. Now the teaching begins.

At 8 years old, Gutierrez was already involved with music, playing the clarinet and various percussion instruments. Her love for music expanded when she discovered 12-inch vinyl singles; some of her collection including those from the disco era. Over the years, her music has spanned genres like electronica, progressive dance, hard house, dubstep, and trance music.

After asking many DJs to teach her and getting rejected, she met Henry Delapeca, a DJ from Circus nightclub. She showed him her songs and he taught her how to play in the garage of his house.

> **"I never thought about my sexuality. That's just who I am."**
>
> *- Irene Gutierrez*

"That whole summer, I practiced everyday for 8 to 10 hours while he was playing cards with the kids of the neighborhood," said Gutierrez.

For 15 years, she worked at the Hollywood club Circus Disco under owner Gene La Pietra. There she learned how to read and please a crowd as well as a sobering truth.

Gutierrez had been working Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. One Sunday, exhausted after moving, she had a bad set.

"That following Tuesday, [La Pietra] saw me and said, 'Don't take this personally; this is business,'" recalls Gutierrez. "'You're not working on Sundays anymore' and walked away."

She learned quickly that you cannot have a bad night. In 1991, Gutierrez began DJing at the Arena nightclub right at the cusp of closing down due to a lack of attendance. She brought the tradition of Circus but made it her own and, within a month, attendance spiked from 900 to 2,500 people. Eventually, the number grew to 6,000 on Friday nights. She played there for 11 years. The attendees named the club, Irena.

"Arena was a place where you could just be yourself," said Gutierrez. "It didn't matter what color you were or what your sexuality was. Everybody got along. It was safe."

Thump, a former magazine run by Vice, listed DJ Irene as one of their top 20 gay DJs of all time. Though Gutierrez has been very open about her sexuality, she doesn't view it as a novelty.

"I never thought about my sexuality," said Gutierrez. "That's just who I am. It was all about my energy and how I learned to put that in my music and making sure everyone had a good time."

While getting a Master's degree in commercial music from Cal State LA, Gutierrez wanted to offer affordable teaching on how to DJ. Some of the schools she saw charged up to $25,000. Richard Kahn, a music instructor at Valley College, proposed to her his idea of starting a DJ workshop program, which Gutierrez helped co-develop.

"I'm a DJ too, so I was looking for some DJ courses but all of them for the most part were private colleges that were $50,000 and $30,000," said 20-year-old student Jacob Cherry. "This was the only public option I found that offers this high level course where they have top level equipment and a really amazing teacher."

DJ Irene is still working on her music when she has time in her busy schedule. But as soon as the semester is over, she plans to jump back into the studio and experiment with some new sounds.

VALLEY LIFE

Grass roots groups in support of Arbor Day

The Arbor Day celebration brought together environmental organizations, clubs and a small, yet enthusiastic crowd.

GABRIEL ARIZON
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Valley College Urban Forest Committee, in collaboration with the ASU and Sierra Club, held this year's Arbor Day celebration to a medium-sized response.

Alongside that week's Club Day, the Arbor Day event was held in the Student Union Plaza on April 24. At least nine organizations, from Heal the Bay and Citizens' Climate Lobby to Amigos de los Rios, gathered their tables next to school clubs while providing information to the few dozens of students nearby on what they do and how they help the environment. The event served free breakfast and lunch by 2ClassyGals that included pastries like bamia, potato pirozhki, mini nazook and lahmajoun.

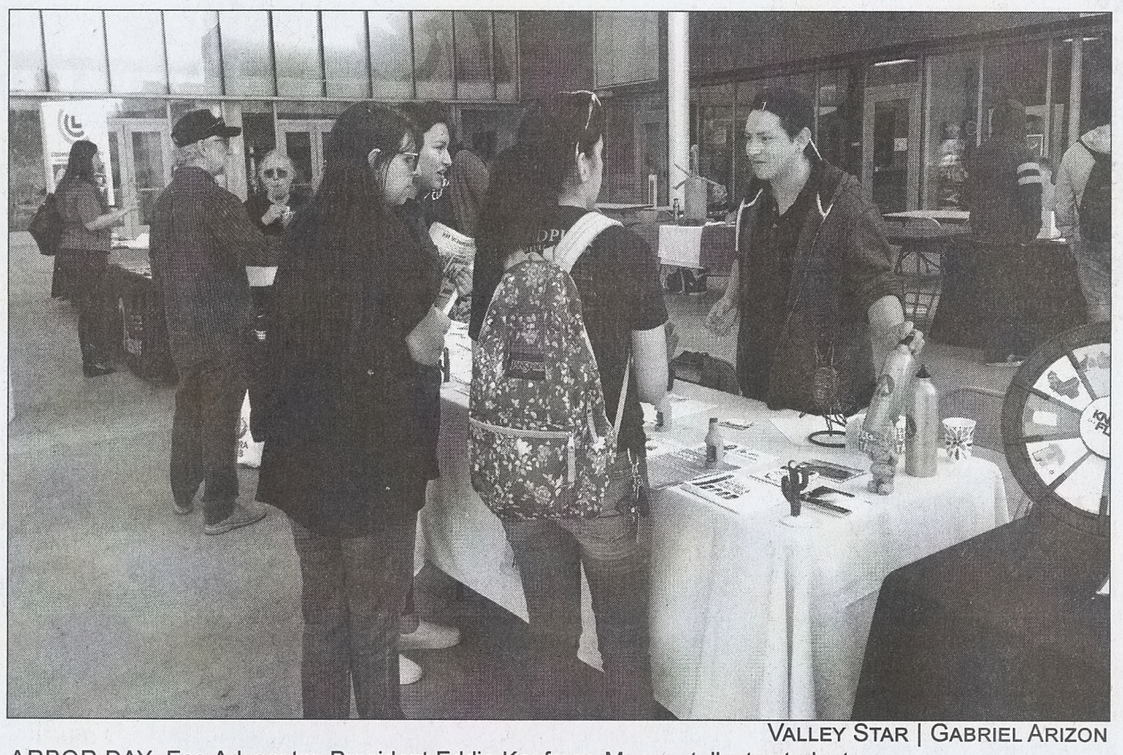
The celebration also coincided with Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day. Around 9 a.m., the event kicked off with a short speech by speaker Medea Kalognomos — a member of the Armenian Educational Foundation and the co-president of the Committee for Armenian Students in Public Schools — to commemorate the public holiday.

"Genocide should be recognized to give respect to the victims, to accept their dignity and to give an end to their trauma," Kalognomos said, quoting a Turkish scholar.

During the roughly four-hour event, organizations held tables to promote their work and get others interested. A spokesperson for Heal the Bay said that they take data of the trash they pick up on beaches and send that to lawmakers, who then can make the appropriate provisions. Subsequent data can then be used to determine if those laws are having the intended effect. Youth-led political group, Sunrise Movement, works to promote the Green Deal and endorses representatives that support their position, as well as unify other young people to stop climate change.

"We also work with local environmental organizations, especially community organizations," said John Kerin, a Sunrise Movement member. "One in particular is STAND-LA … it's a community organization of low-income people who are living near oil wells in the city where there are toxic fumes and all sorts of health hazards."

Clubs had their own way of celebrating Arbor Day. The Unity Club had passersby eat grapes so they could be symbolically linked to the earth. The Art Club gave away recyclable pots with seeds so that students could grow their own plants. The Broadcasting Club sold reusable metal straws for $4, with the proceeds going towards KVCM, the school radio.



VALLEY STAR | GABRIEL ARIZON
ARBOR DAY- Eco Advocates President Eddie Kaufman-Morrow talks to students.

"The event has a nice vibe to it," said psychology major Gabriella Sanchez. "It's good that there's not a lot of people, but I wish more people took an interest in things like this. It's here, so why not take advantage of it."

Around 11 a.m., after announcing winners for a writing competition, the event gave a surprise award to geography professor Claudia Hasenhuttl for her contribution to the environment.

"Trees have always been my thing. I started to work with trees when I was at CSUN, and us being a tree campus was one of the reasons I wanted to come here," Hasenhuttl said. "We have more vendors this year than we had in previous years. Every year, it seems to grow just a little more, so it's starting to catch on."

Afterwards, a pomegranate and apricot tree were planted in the plaza. According to Eco Advocates President and event planner Eddie Kaufman-Morrow, those trees were selected due to being from Armenia and their usage in ceremonies.

"We want to collect like-minded individuals to start thinking more together, that our problems are not just social problem," Kaufman-Morrow said. "They are also environmental, climate justice problems."

Around 1 p.m., a movie screening of "Wall-E" was held in the Lion's Den. The event ended later in the day with Kerin hosting a Climate Justice Q&A and a dozen people in attendance.

The Eco Advocates Club is working with the Sierra Club to hold a meeting on May 7 to discuss the Green New Deal, the Sun Valley Gas Plant and how to lower your electricity bill. It will be from 5 to 7 p.m. in Monarch Hall.

Mickie Shaw contributed to this report.

Look what you made her do

Taylor Swift's new song "ME!" continues her record breaking streak.

TATE COAN
ONLINE EDITOR

With a visual aesthetic similar to her Speak Now era, that most of her fans know all too well, Swift's video broke the Vevo Record with 65.2 million views.

After her 13 day countdown which started on April 13, Taylor Swift released a new song and music video called "ME!" with her usual clues about her upcoming album.

Swift has almost always dropped hints for her fans. During her first few albums, she hid secret messages in her CD booklets by capitalizing random letters. Every album since she has gotten more and more extreme, sending fans down the rabbit hole. With her album "Reputation," she released a calendar for 2019 with seemingly random dates with printed wax seals.

Those dates were important for her next album; like the day she posted the countdown to her website. The most interesting theory about this next upcoming album, however, is that it has been finished for almost three years, which would not be a surprise to her fans.

Swifties have speculated that after the release of her album "1989" in 2014, she started working on album number six, which was not originally "Reputation." In keeping with her previous two-year pattern, she should have released an album in 2016 — but she did not. Something happened in 2016 that ruined her plans: Kim Kardashian and Kanye West.

Around this time, West was writing a song called "Famous" and mentioned Swift by name. While Kardasian was recording a video on her cell phone, West called Swift and asked for her permission to use her name in a line that stated "I feel like me and Taylor might still have sex," but the line continues to say, "Why? I made that bitch famous." Swift was reportedly upset because he did not mention the full line where he hurled more than just a sexist comment at her. Kardashian then released the recording of the phone call in her husband's defense to portray Swift as a liar on National Snake Day; casual cruelty in the name of honesty.

Swift's fans think that because of this incident, she dropped her plans for her next album and quickly pulled together "Reputation" to repair her public image. She gave it a dark snake theme to take control of her narrative and hopefully come back on top. After a loud silence, her fans were shocked to see Swift release her song "Look What You Made Me Do," as it strayed far from her previous style. Recently, however, Swifties have finally found the clues hidden in her LWYMMD video.

In the video, Swift is seen in a pink palm tree patterned outfit, spray painting the word "Reputation" onto the side of a plane, which is supposed to represent her album that she renamed. At the very end, a bunch of iconic and very recognizable Taylors are lined up in front of the aircraft arguing with each other. The one version of herself that no one recognizes is the one in the palm tree outfit still standing on the plane which is very faintly labeled "TS6". Last year on National Snake Day, the two year anniversary of the Kimye drama, Swift was seen wearing a pink palm tree patterned outfit while leaving a recording studio. The Swift on the plane was supposed to represent her future self.

If this is true, she has been planning the clues for this album for three years, and as seen in her latest video, she finally shook off her damaged reputation. She wanted to be her old self again, and she finally found it.

PACIFIC PRO DIGITAL | GLENN FRANCIS
SINGLE- Swift's new song is already breaking records.

THE FACTS

According to a 2017 Forbes article, Taylor Swift has won 10 Grammy Awards (two for Album of the Year), sold over 27.8 million albums and has a net worth of approximately $280 million.

"Endgame" leaves on a high note

"Avengers: Endgame" is just the right ending for this saga of the MCU.

GABRIEL ARIZON
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After the massive critical and financial success of "Avengers: Infinity War," it would be an understatement to say that expectations were high for its follow-up, "Avengers: Endgame," to knock it out of the park.

The culmination of 21 previous films, the Marvel Cinematic Universe manages to do just that by delivering one of the most action-packed and emotional send-offs these characters deserve, ending this saga in one of the best ways possible. (Spoilers for "Infinity War" are below.)

The film begins just after Thanos' victory in the previous Avengers movie — which destroyed half of all life in the universe — with the remaining, depressed heroes trying to pick up the pieces and desperate to reverse the damage. After Ant-Man (Paul Rudd), who was thought to be dead, re-emerges with a daring plan to go back in time, the Avengers assemble once more to rescue their friends and loved ones.

The feeling of defeat among the Avengers is palpable, and each tries their best to cope with the loss against Thanos in "Infinity War." While some manage to find their peace, others are left shadows of their former selves. The statuses of Bruce Banner, Hawkeye and Thor are particular highlights, with the latter deeply affected by his prior inability to finish Thanos off.

"Endgame" gives the majority of its focus to the original Avengers cast of Iron Man, Captain America, Black Widow, Hulk and so on. The buddy relationship between Banner, Thor and Rocket Raccoon (Bradley Cooper) continues into this film from "Thor: Ragnarok" and "Infinity War;" the relationship between Hawkeye and Black Widow is given some new heartfelt depth; and there are a couple surprising and sweet moments between Tony Stark and Nebula (Karen Gillan). Even Ant-Man is given some heart as he discovers an Earth left in shambles.

"Endgame" pays off to the relationships and individual character arcs that have steadily developed over the last decade. Each character gets their moment to shine, and Stark and Steve Rogers, in particular, are given plenty of screen time to resolve any lasting emotional struggles before the film gives them a farewell that is both fitting and emotional.

"Over a decade of Marvel films has built up to this, and it does not disappoint."

However, the movie leaves little room for characters like Captain Marvel (Brie Larson) to work with. Despite playing an integral part in the fight against Thanos, she does not get nearly enough focus that was expected of her. War Machine (Don Cheadle) feels more like a background character and hardly gets the same emotional weight the others do. Okoye (Danai Gurira) from "Black Panther" suffers from the same problem to an even greater extent.

The finale of "Endgame" ends with one of the most exciting and bombastic climaxes ever realized in a film, let alone a comic book movie. Though some moments could be seen as purely fanservice and pandering, it nonetheless is extremely entertaining to watch and a feast for the eyes. Over a decade of Marvel movies has built up to this, and it does not disappoint.

The major fault residing in this outing fall within the Avenger's plan to time travel and reverse Thanos' mass genocide. Though the scenes where the team travel to the past are highly entertaining, it raises way too many questions as to whether the timeline still makes sense. The fates of certain characters are left up in the air and the movie spends no time addressing it. While the pacing is solid throughout the movie, the film itself leaves several unanswered questions for what should be a closing chapter for this saga.

Not once during the movie's three-hour runtime does it relinquish its grasp on your attention. The emotional gravitas layered throughout combined with one of the best action-packed climaxes in film history gives way to one of the best chapters in the MCU.

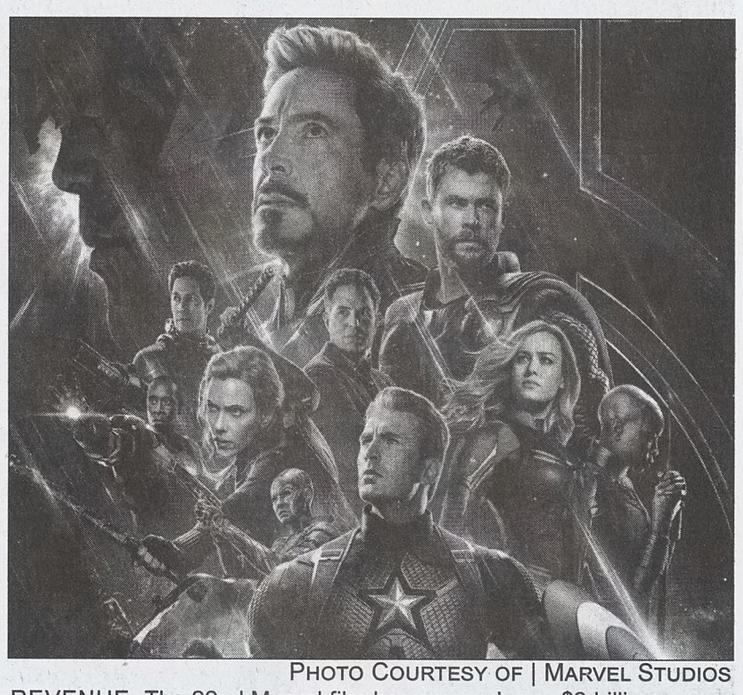


PHOTO COURTESY OF | MARVEL STUDIOS
REVENUE- The 22nd Marvel film has grossed over $2 billion.

VALLEY'S STARS

★★★★½

Rated PG-13
Worth the Money
Now Playing

OPINION

One Way or Another: One question, two opposing viewpoints

Hard-working athletes deserve to get paid

Athletes put in the hours, they should get paid for their efforts

JOCELINE RODRIGUEZ
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

A season could be half of a year, a career could be half a life, and the obstacles and microscope an athlete lives under while working is justified with their pay and commision.

Athletes get paid for what they deserve because they spent most of their career practicing their skills and entertaining the public.

I have nephews who aspire to be pro-athletes. Noah, 8, and Nicolas, 3, are baseball players and practice nearly every weekend. Aadan, 9, plays football and aspires to be in the NFL when he grows up. If any of them become professional athletes the weekday practices, weekend games and countless hours of training was well worth it. Those boys will deserve every penny they earn and I am sure the families of pro-athletes feel the same.

We, as a society, teach children to find what they love and be successful at it. But once they make it, we take it away from them. It is unfair because by the time they are 18, they have already dedicated a huge portion of their life unpaid, working to get where they are.

"These individuals have been scouted since high school — or even earlier — and are considered to be the best at what they do," explained Ashley Figueroa, writer of The Current, Nova Southeastern University's newspaper. "They tirelessly train and practice year after year to improve performance."

The job also comes with a laundry list of business agreements. These include: pre-season training, all-star games, playoffs, promotional commercials, interviews, and so on.

An athlete's career is not guaranteed, their prime is limited, and injuries take a toll on their bodies more than the average person. Once an athlete hits their late 30s or early 40s, in most sports they are considered old.

"The average American will retire between the ages of 65-75, but a professional athlete will last a lot less in their career than someone who sits on a desk all day," explained Chris Mueller, Sports Editor from The Bleacher Report.

The average career length in the NFL is about 3.3 years and about six years for players who make a club's opening day roster in their rookie season, according to the NFL Players Association.

Not only are their careers short, but the consequences of being an athlete means a higher risk of injuries.

Forbes listed Floyd Mayweather earning $285 million, Lionel Messi $81 million, Conor McGregor $85 million, Neymar $71 million, Cristiano Ronaldo $61 million and LeBron James $33 million as 2018 top paid athletes in the world. The world's most watched sports obviously bring in the most money for its superstars.

As of 2019, Instagram models and Youtubers no longer pay for anything of their own yet they make so much money. They are provided with complimentary makeup, clothes, jet rides and even get paid to party and sell a lifestyle.

Actors and actresses film one movie and make millions. Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson scored $124 million in 2018, Robert Downey Jr. made $81 million, Scarlett Johansson earned $40 million, and Angelina Jolie made $28 million. What is the issue with athletes landing million dollar contracts that they worked and dedicated their whole lives to?

"Sports teams make their money through ticket sales, viewership, and merchandise sales and then pass their earnings to their players," implied Figueroa. "Therefore, if people agree that athletes are overpaid, then they should stop creating such a high demand for sports."

Athletes get rich while teachers struggle

Watching sports is exciting, thinking about how much athletes get paid is not.

SAVANNAH SIMMONS
OPINION EDITOR

While athletes put in blood, sweat and tears for their enormous paychecks, teachers who do the same for the benefit of their students' intellectual gain are paid an embarrassingly small amount in comparison.

There is no question that athletes bring in a ton of money for sports networks, clothing companies and nutrition brands, but is what they do benefitting the population? Yes, watching them allows viewers to escape from their lives, but it is not adding to the viewer's intelligence.

With the time and hard work athletes put in, they do not deserve chump change. They do, however, make an insane amount more, comparatively, than people who put in work to make a change out in the world.

However, teachers, who are severely underpaid, spend countless hours educating younger generations who could eventually become doctors, senators or even teachers themselves. Teachers should not have to juggle other jobs, becoming bartenders or Uber drivers to make ends meet. Their focus should be on providing a fun learning experience for their students.

"No teacher should be forced to take on a second job in order to pay the bills."

-Kamala Harris

"No teacher should be forced to take on a second job in order to pay the bills," tweeted Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) during the Los Angeles Unified School District strike earlier this year. "We have to be better than this. Thank you to our Los Angeles teachers for staying strong — I stand with you. #LAUSDStrike"

When teachers go on strike, it is not only for their sake but their students' sakes aswell. Earlier this year, thousands of teachers in Los Angeles went on strike for not only for higher wages but also for smaller classroom sizes. Athletes go on strike too, but it is solely for their gain personally at the expense of their consumers who may not be able to watch them while they are striking.

The average public school teacher in Los Angeles makes between $56,000 to $74,000 a year according to salary.com, while according to the collective bargaining agreement that goes into effect next year, an active NFL rookie makes a minimum of $400,000 a year in a one-year contract. Not to mention the top-pick athletes who get paid millions a year.

Athletes get paid to not only play their game but also for appearances at events and major brand deals. Teachers work tirelessly to create lesson plans for their students, attend PTA meetings and parent-teacher conferences. Not to mention that now more than ever, teachers are being trained to learn how to protect their students in the event of a major emergency.

The child's life that a teacher comes into is changed with the knowledge that is given to them through their lessons in the classroom. They work with these kids to help them understand what they are learning and give them the ability to use it for the rest of their lives. Teacher's pay grade should reflect this as athletes' pay is more than done so.

Senator Elizabeth Warren introduces $1.2 trillion plan to tackle student debt

A trillion dollar proposal by Elizabeth Warren, a 2020 presidental candidate, is putting an end to a financial problem that haunts many students.

KIMBERLY LINARES
STAFF WRITER

In some ways the drive for free tuition reflects the growing public anxiety about the value of college. Although, Senator Elizabeth Warren's plan seems surreal it would be beneficial to the 95 percent of people burdened with long-term student loans.

Student debt and college affordability have become a key dividing line in the 2020 Democratic race among candidates that share different views as to how students should pay for their college education. Last week, Warren unveiled a sweeping proposal to erase student loan debt for millions of Americans and make all public colleges tuition free, a plan that makes her different from the rest. Warren is one of the 2020 democratic presidential candidates that released a detailed policy that demonstrates her concern for the high cost of education for students that are in the process of attending college or those who are still paying for it. Her plan would wipe away up to $50,000 in student debt for borrowers with an annual household income of less than $100,000, an estimated 45 million Americans.

"We got into this crisis because state and federal governments decided that instead of treating the higher education like our public school system — free and accessible to all Americans — they'd rather cut taxes for billionaires and giant corporations and offload the rest of higher education onto students and their families," said Warren on her post with Medium, an online publishing platform.

To accomplish this, Warren proposes eliminating tuition and fees at all two-year and four-year universities with the overall purpose of adopting the idea similar to that of the American K-12 educational system. While also expanding federal Pell Grants for low-income students by $100 billion and creating a $50 billion fund for historically black colleges and universities. Warren estimates the proposed policy would cost approximately $1.25 trillion over 10 years and suggests that costs be covered with revenue from her proposed Ultra-Millionaire Wealth Tax, a 2 percent annual tax on the 75,000 families in the U.S. who have at least $50 million in assets.

"I support a forgiveness plan for a huge chunk of student loans. Young people should be buying homes, starting families and starting businesses not trapped in their parents' basement paying off phantom loans for years."

-Andrew Yang

Along with Warren, 2020 presidential candidate Andrew Yang shared his opinion on student debt forgiveness through Twitter.

"I support a forgiveness plan for a huge chunk of student loans. Young people should be buying homes, starting families and starting businesses and not trapped in their parents' basement paying off phantom loans for years. It's a better stimulus than shoveling money to banks."

College debt should not be a worry for students. Under the Department of Education's standard repayment plan, it takes 10 years to pay off student loans. A student's life changes after attending college, meaning that priorities shift because many work full-time or begin forming families. So why not take away from the more affluent to help those that are struggling?

Student loan debt in 2019 is at its highest. As of February 2019, Forbes reported that 44.2 million borrowers owe a total of $1.52 trillion in student debt within the U.S. Borrowers in the class of 2017, on average owe $28,650, according to the Institute for College Access and Success.

"We expect everyone but the wealthy to take on mountains of debt if they want to get a post-secondary education. This is closing off opportunities for generations of Americans and widening this country's racial wealth gap," said Warren on Medium.

In order to succeed and live a life comfortably, higher education is needed; it is the platform that helps students attain success. Without higher education, low-paying jobs are what millenials will rely on to make ends meet. A high school diploma does not do much anymore, and when comparing annual income from a highschool graduate to a university graduate, the difference is approximately $24,000.

What other statistics are needed so that education gets prioritized by other presidential candidates? If Elizabeth Warren doesn't get voted as the next president, then who will bring about the change needed for student debt?

STUDENT DEBT

According to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System over 44 million Americans collectively hold nearly $1.5 trillion in student debt.

Meaning that roughly one in four American adults are paying off student loans.

According to an annual survey by College Board, the average student debt is $28,650.

VALLEY VIEW | WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY ABOUT CATCHING THE MEASLES?

TEXT BY ALANA AIMAQ AND TATE COAN | PHOTOS BY ALANA AIMAQ

"If I know it's infected in that area, I would never go there."
-ANDREA MAZARIEGOS

"Vaccinate your kids!"
-CATHERINE VILLALOBOS

"This movement is great because everyone is supporting getting vaccinated. I love the memes that have come out of this."
- ISAAC BISHOFF

"I am vaccinated, so I think I am safe."
-KIMBERLY MARTINEZ

"I am vaccinated, but I wouldn't try risking it. I don't want to get anything I can avoid."
- RICARDO GUEVARA

EDITORS NOTE

The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administration, faculty, staff or students.

SPORTS

Lady Monarchs strikeout at second season

The Lady Monarchs 2019 season ends with the Monarchs missing the playoffs for another year but, there may be a light at the end of the tunnel.

VALLEY STAR | APET SUKIASYAN

LADY MONARCHS - Monarhcs end the 2019 Spring season with a 23-12 record and a 9-5 Western State Conference record.

VICENTE VITELA
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Monarchs ended their softball season with a 23-12 record and a third place finish in the Western State Conference east division and have established themselves this season as a team to lookout for in 2020.

In order to understand what this team has accomplished, we must first look back at the 2016-2017 season in which Valley College finished with a 1-30 record. Fast forward to this year and the Monarchs not only finished with a .657 winning percentage, but also ranked in the top 20 for extra base hits, on base, and slugging percentage.

Valley got off to a hot start as they won nine of their first 12 games, which was leaps and bounds ahead of where they started two years ago. During this span, they outscored their opponents 201-62 with two mercy victories to their credit.

"Nobody expected us to even be in this position," said Head Coach Greg Venger before the team's last game against Antelope Valley.

The lady Monarchs wave of momentum came crashing down as they lost six of their next 13 games, most notably a late-inning 5-4 collapse to College of the Canyons and an underperforming 12-4 mercy loss to Antelope Valley.

During the slump, the Monarchs had turned into the Bad News Bears as they committed 16 errors in 13 games and were outscored by their opponents 22-12 during the final three innings of those games. One kryptonite of this year's team was its inability to close out a team during the fifth, sixth, and seventh innings.

"I would say we were pretty consistent throughout the year, other than that stretch when we lost like five out of six games," said Coach Venger when asked about the difference between the team from the beginning of the season to the end. "This group of young women have been fun to work with because I have watch them get better both mentally and physically."

After a 6-5 victory over Barstow College that went nine innings, the Monarchs woke up and found some of that spark they had to start the season. Valley would win nine of their next 13 games including two mercy victories, and went through a period where they scored nine runs or more during a six game stretch, all while having to play ten of those games on the road.

This unique story however does not have a happy ending, as Valley would lose their final two games to division leaders Bakersfield and Antelope Valley, which left the Lady Monarchs feeling both beaten and satisfied.

"It is a testament to my assistant coaches and the players to stay together, everything is always perfect when you are winning as a team, but as soon as you start losing it is easy to turn on each other, and that did not happen with this group," said Venger.

THE VALLEY STAR | APET SUKIASYAN

MONARCHS - Belinda Rivera, Caitlyn Pineda and Destiny Velasquez celebrate a past win.

Streaming sites knockout pay-per-view

As streaming services begin to dip their toe into combat sports this may lead to the death of pay per view, in particular boxing and MMA.

VICENTE VITELA
STAFF WRITER

Low cost streaming sites have landed a crushing body blow to pay-per-view and it looks like the old service might not be able to get up off the mat.

Canelo Alvarez, arguably one of the greatest boxers of his generation, can be seen for $8.33 per month with a DAZN subscription. DAZN, a sports streaming service, recently inked Alvarez to a five-year, 11-fight contract worth $365-million-dollars, and boxing star Gennady Golovkin to a three year, six-fight deal to have both their fights exclusively shown on DAZN.

Deals like these make it hard to promote any pay-per-view. As a comparison, Alverez's 2013 pay-per-view fight against Floyd Mayweather cost $75.

"Ladies and gentleman pay-per-view is dead."
-Oscar De La Hoya

"Ladies and gentleman pay-per-view is dead," said Oscar De La Hoya, former boxing champ and owner of Golden Boy Promotions when speaking at a press conference according to thering.com.

Furthermore, MMA fighter Bellator signed DAZN in late 2018 for a nine-figure multi-year deal which includes 15 DAZN exclusive fights per year. While the UFC signed with sports power house ESPN for $750 million for five years, which includes 15 ESPN+ (ESPN's streaming service) exclusive shows, plus both pre and post-fight shows as well as a fighting library for just $4.99 a month.

"The addition of this content gives ESPN+ subscribers access to the biggest events from UFC," said Russell Wolff, executive VP and GM of ESPN+ according to variety.com.

Both these deals would indicate that the days of calling your local cable provider to order pay-per-views are numbered.

In fact, in 2018 HBO, which brought boxing to many homes for over 45 years, announced that they would no longer broadcast boxing on their channel or through pay-per-view.

According to fightful.com, a website that covers MMA, boxing and combat sports, reported a decline in viewership in HBO. In 2016 HBO viewership stood at 856,000 in 13 events and in 2017, dropped to 701,688 viewers in 16 events, marking a lower profit for HBO.

The quality of fighters is not the only reason why people are choosing streaming over traditional pay-per-view, as ESPN plus and DAZN offer 30-day free trials.

If you sign up at the right time, you may be able to witness the best combat sport athletes for no cost. ESPN plus and DAZN also added other content to their network such as Major League Soccer, gymnastics, cricket and MLB highlights in hopes of keeping the subscribers who sign up under the free trial banner.

"People purchased cable to watch ESPN," said Travis Vogan, an assistant professor of mass communications at the University of Iowa, specializing in sports cable television in an article for mercurynews.com. "They were not happy about this but they had no alternatives in the past. But streaming technology has opened up new opportunities."

DAZN and ESPN plus may be the first of many sports streaming services, and if more sports decide to go the streaming rout, pay-per-view and cable may not be able to answer the 10 count.

The Valley Star

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Letters to the editor can be sent to: editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

the VALLEY STAR

The Independent Student Newspaper of Los Angeles Valley College

Valley College celebrates Arbor Day by planting trees

Valley College held this year's Arbor Day celebration alongside Club Day. Both clubs and environmental organizations set up their tables in the Student Union Plaza.

During the middle of the day, a pomegranate and an apricot tree were planted in the plaza, both to commemorate the celebration and in honor of Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day.

Text by
Gabriel Arizon, Co-Editor-in-Chief

Photos by
Mickie Shaw, Multimedia Editor

RIGHT- Staff finish planting the pomegranate tree in the Student Union Plaza.

BELOW RIGHT- Staff working together to finish planting the apricot tree.

TOP- Students and faculty pose with the newly planted pomegranate tree.

ABOVE- A student takes interest at the Eco Advocates table and signs up.

ABOVE- Interim President Denise Noldon helps plant a tree.

ABOVE- The Art Club member Patty Hernandez greets a student interested in their table.